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**Montana**  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent



**MontCAS**  
**Montana Comprehensive Assessment System**  
**November 2011**



**2011-2012 Statewide Assessment Schedule**

December 1, 2011 – January 27, 2012	English Language Proficiency Assessment--WIDA Please see information beginning on page 5 of this newsletter.
January 18 - 20, 2012	OPI Assessment and Data Conference, Helena The conference will begin the afternoon of January 18 with a full day on January 19 and morning sessions on January 20.
February 8 - March 23, 2012	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science. The first week of this window is intended for training and the preparation of materials.
February 29 – March 23, 2012	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science

**Test Coordinator Information**

Many of you have already contacted OPI with updated information. Thank you.

If your system has a new System Test Coordinator this school year and you haven't contacted OPI, please do so right away. Debbie Casey, the OPI assessment assistant, is your contact: [dcasey@mt.gov](mailto:dcasey@mt.gov) or 406-444-3511

Please provide the Test Coordinator's name, email address, phone number, shipping address, and mailing address. Test Coordinator Information is also collected with schools' data during the OPI Annual Data Collection (ADC); however, important timely information will continue to be sent to System Test Coordinators prior to the ADC Collection.



## Statewide Assessment/Data Conference 2012

January 18-20, Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena

- Pre sessions, Wednesday, January 18, 1:00 4:00 pm include workshops on
  - Proposed Montana Common Core Standards in Math
  - Proposed Montana Common Core Standards in English Language Arts
  - Instructional Uses of English Language Proficiency (ELP), WIDA assessment results
  - ACT Plus Writing Training
- Thursday, January 19, 8:30 – 4:25 pm
  - 8:30am, Keynote: Tony Alpert, CEO of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, will provide updates and insights on the adaptive online assessment implementation in 2014-15.
- Friday, January 20, 8:30 – 11:30
  - 8:30 am, Keynote: Allyson Knox of Microsoft will speak about data and the Montana GEMS data warehouse project.
- Conference presentations include sessions on assessment and data and training for the 2012 MontCAS CRT test administration.
- Regularly updated information about the conference offerings and a call for proposals can be found at [http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1\\_5](http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_5)

### **REGISTRATION**

- Register online at [http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1\\_5](http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_5)
- On-site registration will be open prior to the pre sessions on Wednesday, January 18 and at 7:15am on Thursday, January 19.
- Breakfasts, lunches, and breaks will be provided.
- Early registration fee is \$65. Starting January 9, the registration fee is \$75.
- Online registration ends January 13, 2012 at midnight. On-site and mail registrations will be accepted at the late registration price.
- Conference support is provided by Montana State University Conference Services. Please contact them at 406-994-3333 or [stephanie.stratton@montana.edu](mailto:stephanie.stratton@montana.edu) with any registration questions.
- Refunds for registration must be requested in writing. Full refunds will be offered until January 1. After January 8, a \$25 cancellation fee will be charged. No refunds will be approved for requests received after January 14, 2011.

### **RESERVATIONS**

- A block of rooms at a special rate at the Red Lion Colonial Inn has been reserved. Please contact the hotel to make your room reservations:
- Phone: 406-443-2100 Website: [redlion.com](http://redlion.com)
- Deadline: Tuesday, December 20, 2011. The group code is "OPI Assessment Conference" and must be included in your reservation to receive the conference rate.

## **CRT and CRT-Alternate**

## Ordering Braille Versions of the CRT for Your Students

The CRT is available in two Braille versions, but because it is a lengthy process to produce them, all orders must be complete by November 4, 2011.

- When ordering, please specify which version is required, uncontracted or contracted.



- **Uncontracted Braille:** Words are transcribed to Braille by simply substituting the equivalent Braille character for its printed equivalent, such a character-by-character transcription. It is used by beginners.
- **Contracted Braille** uses a system of contractions to reduce space and speed the process of reading. Virtually all Braille books are transcribed in this format.

- Please check with your Special Education Directors/teachers and schools to determine if you have any student (s) in your system who requires a Braille version in grades 3 - 8 or 10 and which version.
- **Order deadline: November 4, 2011.** Please contact Debbie Casey at OPI (406-444-3511 or [dcasey@mt.gov](mailto:dcasey@mt.gov)) with the following information: state student ID, grade, school, and version (uncontracted or contracted) for each student requiring a Braille version. To ensure student privacy, **please do not include the name of the student.** Thank you.

## Ordering Large Print Versions of the CRT

- 🍁 System test coordinators order the large print versions online <http://iservices.measuredprogress.org>
- 🍁 The link will be activated on **November 5, 2011**
- 🍁 Choose Montana and click Enter
- 🍁 Choose "Order Large Print Test Booklets"
- 🍁 You will need state student ID, grade, and school for each student requiring the large print version.
- 🍁 **Order deadline for currently enrolled students: January 9, 2012**
- 🍁 **Order deadline for students enrolled after the January deadline: March 15, 2012**



## Registering Students for the CRT-Alternate

Below is a table with the registration windows for students eligible for the CRT-Alternate. A link and directions for registration were emailed to system test coordinators early in October 2011.

Registration Windows for Students Eligible for the 2012 CRT-Alternate	
October 10 - December 5, 2011	For students currently enrolled in your school
January 3 - January 17, 2012	For students who enroll in your school after December 5, 2011
After January 17, 2012	For students who enroll after January 17, 2012, please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656, jsnow@mt.gov



It is extremely important that you register students currently enrolled during the first window. The windows after December 2 are specifically for students newly enrolled in your schools.

- Registering your currently enrolled students who are eligible for the CRT-Alternate is essential for the production of the materials kits and other test administration materials and for teacher preparation with the materials.
- All students who are eligible for the CRT-Alternate must be registered for the 2012 administration, including students who have been registered for and have taken the CRT-Alternate in previous years.

➔ Guidelines for eligibility for the CRT-Alternate are online at [http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/10How\\_to\\_Include\\_Students\\_with\\_Disabilities.pdf](http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/10How_to_Include_Students_with_Disabilities.pdf)

## COMING UP: CRT Test Development Events 2011-2012

You are invited to nominate yourself and/or a colleague to participate in CRT development sessions.

- All sessions are in Helena.
- Training is included at each session.
- Lodging is provided for participants living 90 miles or more from Helena. In addition, mileage, meals not provided during the sessions, and substitute pay are reimbursed. Renewal units are also available. For the June meetings, honoraria are provided.
- We look forward to hearing from you soon. Nomination is online at the following link:

<http://iservices.measuredprogress.org/Default.asp?ProgramID=11&submit1=Enter>

2011-2012 Test Development Events		
Date	Event	Participants
November 30-December 1, 2011	Passage Review	Panels of five each elementary, middle school, and high school teachers.
April 16-17, 2012	Item Review	Panels of six elementary, middle school, and high school teachers,

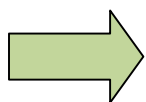
		including special education and LEP teachers each for the following contents and grades: Reading: Grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 10 Math: Grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 10 Science Grades 4, 8, and 10
April 18, 2012	Item Review	Panels of five each elementary, middle school, and high school teachers.
June 26-27, 2012	Field Test Statistical Review	Panels of: Reading, grades 3-6: four teachers* Reading, grades 7, 8, and 10: three teachers* Math, grades 3-6: four teachers* Math, grades 7, 8, and 10: three teachers* Science, grades 4 and 8: four teachers** Science, grade 10: three teachers * =1 for each grade **=2 for each grade

## English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment

The Montana English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards were adopted by the Board of Public Education. They are posted on the Assessment ELP website:

[http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1\\_11](http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_11)

- The assessment aligned to those standards is *ACCESS for ELLs*.
- The assessment is developed by the WIDA consortium (<http://www.wida.us/>).
- Materials for the assessment will be shipped by MetriTech.
- The test window for the first Montana administration of *ACCESS for ELLs*® is December 1, 2011 – January 27, 2012.



**If a newly enrolled student is identified as LEP and you have no other LEP students enrolled, please call OPI immediately so we can assist you in obtaining testing materials. Please contact Debbie Casey, 406-444-3511 or [dcasey@mt.gov](mailto:dcasey@mt.gov)**

### Checklist to prepare for the administration of *ACCESS* for students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP).



**All students identified as LEP are required to participate in the ELP including newly enrolled LEP students.**

- ✓ The LEP status of all identified students must be updated in *AIM*. Please keep in mind the importance of updating *AIM* data to reflect the current status of LEP students.
  - LEP program participation data must have been entered into *AIM* no later than **October 27, 2011** in order to receive barcode labels for students.
- ✓ OPI orders testing materials for all students entered in *AIM* by October 27.
- ✓ For students who enroll after October 27 or who were not entered in *AIM*, please administer the *W-APT* to determine which tier the student needs.
  - Follow the directions that accompany the testing materials to order additional materials for the newly enrolled students.
- ✓ The training webinar for ACCESS (Pre-ACCESS for ELLS Test Administration Training) test administration is online on the WIDA web site, [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us). Your WIDA username and password are required.
- ✓ The 2011-12 ACCESS Test Administration Manual will give systems and schools a head start understanding the overall testing process. It is online at the following link: <https://www.metritech.com/userfiles/file/2011-2%20District%20and%20School%20Test%20Administration%20Manual.pdf>

Please use the following table for upcoming important dates for the 2011-12 administration.

Online Training and Information Webinars	Date Available	Username and Password Needed
<i>W-APT Overview</i> : Provides training for downloading, administering, scoring, and using the results of the <i>W-APT</i> to assist in the identification of newly enrolled students with limited English proficiency (LEP/ ELL). <a href="http://www.wida.us">www.wida.us</a>	August 31	YES
<i>ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration Training</i> : Provides information on testing materials for system test coordinators and training for administration of the assessment. <a href="http://www.wida.us">www.wida.us</a>	October 1	YES
<i>ACCESS for ELLS Assessment Timeline</i>	Start Date	End Date
<i>ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration Training</i> (Online) —see above for description.		November 30
OPI orders tests for systems and schools.	October 25	October 26
Systems receive <i>ACCESS</i> test materials shipped by MetriTech*		November 23
Additional materials ordering deadline		January 13
Test Window	December 1	January 27
Deadline for systems to ship materials to MetriTech*		February 2

## OTHER Assessment News

### ACT Plus Writing

In the spring of 2012, some Montana juniors will have the opportunity to take the ACT Plus Writing on a school day in their high schools. The test will be provided for these students without cost. This is because the Montana GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) Program just received a \$28



million grant. Included in that grant is an implementation pilot of the ACT Plus Writing to determine the feasibility of all juniors taking the test in their high schools in the future. Information about the pilot was sent to all Montana public accredited high schools. A sample of high schools in addition to the GEAR UP high schools have been selected to administer the ACT Plus Writing in their schools in April 2012. Students who participate in the pilot will receive their scores for the assessment and may have them sent to potential colleges/universities. OPI has established a website for ACT materials and information. It is:

[http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1\\_12](http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_12)

### **Getting Ready for Transitions to the Proposed Common Core Standards**

Current information and updates on transitions to the proposed common core standards and assessments are available on the OPI *Getting Ready* link:

<http://opi.mt.gov/MontanaCommonCoreStandards>

On the new Getting Ready website you will find information and resources such as

- Fact sheets
- Recorded webinars
- Scripted power points
- FAQ's are posted regularly.



### **Testing Contractor Contact Information**

#### **The CRT and the CRT-Alternate – Measured Progress, Inc.**

Dan Verdick, Montana CRT Program Manager

[dverdick@measuredprogress.org](mailto:dverdick@measuredprogress.org) or 800-431-8901 x2220

Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant

[nhall@measuredprogress.org](mailto:nhall@measuredprogress.org) or 888-792-2741

Tim Greenlaw, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager

[greenlaw.timothy@measuredprogress.org](mailto:greenlaw.timothy@measuredprogress.org) or

800-431-8901x2309

#### **ACCESS and the W-APT, English Language Proficiency Assessments WIDA Consortium**

[help@wida.us](mailto:help@wida.us) or 1-866-276-7735

### **OPI Assessment Staff**

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